

## FOGCUTTER BAR

HAINES, ALASKA

by  
David Phillips



An interesting Alaska wood recently came my way. It is from O'Riley's Fogcutter Bar in Haines, Alaska.

O'Riley was an Irish Setter and was the pet of one of the Bar owners. O'Riley used to lie in the sun on the sidewalk in front of the bar on Main Street. He was a favorite of patrons and locals alike. He was obviously a character, or, was of such good character, that he usually garnered a few votes for Mayor in local civic elections!

The wood (or "chip" as they are usually referred to) was given to a customer to show that he or she had a drink coming (in Alaska it is against the law to have more than one drink in front of you at any time).

One of the owners has told me that in the 25 or so years the Fogcutter Bar has been in existence, they have gone through close to 15,000 of these woods (wonder if there are any varieties?! Obviously these chips are kept as souvenirs "as a reminder of the swell time had at the Fogcutter."

The image on the obverse is a self portrait of one of the owners. The image and all printing is done in a mid blue color. The size of the wood is the standard 38mm.



There is also a substantial 38mm metal token issued by the Fogcutter Bar. The token is "Good for one premium cocktail." These have a blue background, white writing with gold "1 cocktail" and gold helmsman at the wheel. Interestingly the name "O'Riley's" does not appear on this token. 1,500 of these have been issued over the years.

My sincere thanks go to Kelly Jessup, co-owner of the Fogcutter Bar, for both the tokens and the information relative to them.

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Our thanks to Dave Phillips for his article on the Fogcutter Bar. It came in just in time to grace the front page, and I didn't have to scramble at the last minute to think up something to put there!

I am just back from a week in the lower 48. My wife works for the Georgeson Botanical Garden at UAF, and she was outside researching the marketing and growing of peonies. We spent one day in Los Angeles at the wholesale flower market, and the rest of the time visiting peonie growers in the northwest.

While in Seattle, I had time to visit the University of Washington library. They have the papers of John N. Cobb, author of "Pacific Cod Fisheries." His papers listed a folder for the Alaska Codfish Company. I was hoping that I would be able to identify the locations of the "stations" noted on the tokens. Unfortunately, there was not any new information in the few letters in the folder, and the exact locations are still a mystery. We know where their stations were located, but we still don't know which station Baranof and Winchester refer to. Further, since they had five stations, there may still be other tokens.

We expected our trip to the lower 48 to introduce us to summer a week or so early. Well, while we were down south in the rain (yes, even in LA), it was in the 70s and 80s in Fairbanks! And we returned to rain! Well, only for the first morning we were home. Now, it looks like summer is here, and I am ready for another short baseball season in preparation for a long delayed pilgrimage to Phoenix in October! We have not put a team together for several years. This might just be the year. Got to go down to the tournament at least one more time before I am too old!

This issue is more a sales list than a newsletter as we are offering several pages of items that have been drawn out by higher silver prices. I will try to adjust prices with the fluctuations in the silver market to the last moment before printing. Please note that all prices must be subject to change if silver takes off again. Since most are one of a kind, please call or email so we can hold your items (and lock in a price should silver move again).

We always welcome your submissions in the form of articles, short bits of information or items For The Record. Please keep us in mind.

## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Circle</b> , Collins & Strait, 10¢, B-1a	OB150.00NB
<b>Egegik</b> , Nakat Pkg., 10¢, B-1b	77.88
<b>Haines</b> , Brouillette, 10¢, B-3a	OB95.00NB
<b>Juneau</b> , Occidental Hotel, 12½¢, B-56c	OB90.00NB
<b>Katalla</b> , Katalla Co., B-C6a, damaged	75.00OB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , The Lotus, 12½¢, B-31f	OB15.00NB
<b>Kivalina</b> , Reindeer & Trd., 25¢, B-1b	OB150.00NB
<b>Kukak Bay</b> , Hemrich, 25¢, B-1c	75.00OB
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c, PCGS-58	105.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	OB75.0NB
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 25¢, B-1d	OB130.00NB
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bIII	OB9.99?
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block, 12½¢ TC, B-4a	100.00!
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block, 12½¢, B-4b	27.92
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block, \$1 w/nug., B-4cI	RLOB1,595.00NB
<b>Yakutat</b> , Y&SRy Co., 10¢, unlisted	1,128.28
<b>Yukokaket</b> , Lewis, 12½¢, B-1a	250.00OB
<b>AYPE</b> , ¼ DWT	153.50RNM
<b>AYPE</b> , ½ DWT	250.00
<b>AYPE</b> , set of 3, auction ended early	OB950.00?
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 1 Pinch, 1897, round, NGC-65	1,360.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 1 Pinch, 1897, round	416.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 1 Pinch, 1897, round	304.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 1 Pinch, 1898, octagonal	898.88
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 1 Pinch, 1898, octagonal	535.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 1 Pinch, 1898, octagonal	304.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 1 Pinch, 1898, octagonal w/loop	201.50
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 2 Too-wah	460.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 2 Too-wah	406.99
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , ¼ -, 1902 fantasy	268.09

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist  
RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve  
BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

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## FOR THE RECORD



**ADAK:** C.P.O. Mess, Good for one drink. Gold on blue plastic, 39mm. I am sure I have seen this before, but it does not appear in our index (Kurtis Hawk).



**JUNEAU:** Snowbirds, Spring Break-up 1985. Gold on red plastic, 40mm.



**PALMER:** Moosehead Saloon, one well drink. Brass, 32mm (Kurtis Hawk).

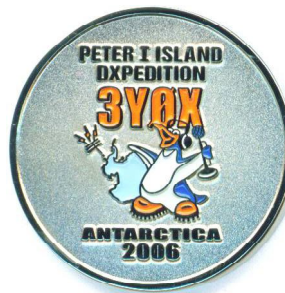


**(SITKA):** Romie's Place, 5¢. White metal, 21mm. Unlisted, sold in Fred Holabird's April auction for \$2,400 (Kurtis Hawk).



**(San Francisco, CA):** The Klondike, 5¢, brass, 24mm.

## PETER I ISLAND DXPEDITION



Peter I Island is a small island off the coast of the Antarctic continent. A Dxpedition was conducted there this past southern summer.

A Dxpedition consists of a group of amateur radio operators (hams) going to a remote location, and making radio contact with other radio operators. Sort of like collecting tokens, they collect radio contacts from all over the globe.

When a group of Dxers go to a place like Peter I Island, it is a rare opportunity for those in the community to add a remote contact to their contact list.

The serial numbered medals were offered for sale to the general public to raise funds to support the expedition in gold and silver finish, with orange, light blue, white and black enamel (much like the military challenge coins). A bronze finish was offered to operators with confirmed contact, and their radio call sign was engraved on the medal in place of the serial number. Check their websites at [www.peterone.com](http://www.peterone.com) and [www.dxcoins.com](http://www.dxcoins.com).

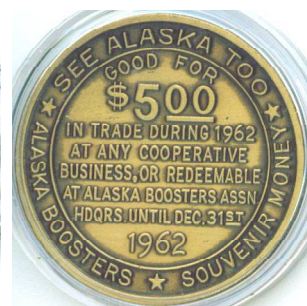
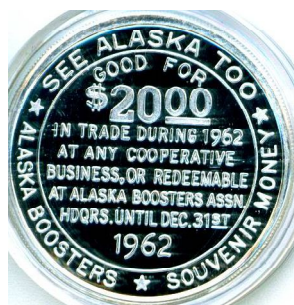
## MAMMOTH ERROR!



We offered these in January. When we did the woolly mammoth, the engraver took liberties with the design and changed the species (left above). Differences can be seen on the tusks and top of head. We had the dies recut and species corrected. We purchased a collection recently and there was one of the errors in it. Only one in stock for **\$50** or **\$60** for one of each type, post-paid.



# SUMMER SPECIALS!



In 1962, the Alaska Boosters Dollar was issued for distribution at the Seattle World's Fair to promote tourism to Alaska. A brass, \$1 token was issued. In 1986, Global Exchange Limited "found" additional designs (other than the original moose and totem) and struck one ounce silver \$20 trade coins (shown above left at a greatly reduced size) and \$5 trade coins in bronze. We have acquired two sets of each and offer them at \$200 and \$65 respectively. If you don't want a full set, we have the original \$1 tokens for \$1 each, plus \$1 per order for handling and an SASE (1 = \$2 plus SASE; 2 = \$3 plus SASE, etc.)



During the construction of the pipeline, a 12 piece silver medal set was struck. What some don't know is that after the silver were all struck, they also did a set in bronze using the same obverse dies, and similar reverse dies with the metal content statement removed. These bronze sets are very scarce. We rarely see them. We have one set available for \$90. (illustration reduced).

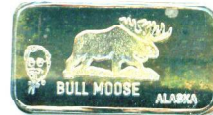
Individual silver pipeline medals are available at the special price of only \$20 for numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. We have only a few of #10, #11 and #12, and they are \$30 each.

One of the oddest things to come out of the eighties is a three piece, 1/4 ounce silver ingot set issued by the Fairbanks Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise.

One side has Alaska symbols: Mt. McKinley, the flag and the map of the state. The other side has Alaska animals: Dall sheep, grizzly bear and bull moose. Each has the portrait of Col. Sanders in the lower left.

These are shown actual size.

We offer these sets for \$15.

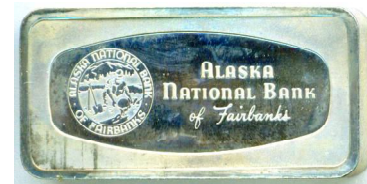


# SUMMER SPECIALS!



As you may have guessed, the high silver prices are bringing some silver items into the market. The official Alaska Purchase Centennial medals are no exception! Containing about 5.25 ounces of pure silver, these melt out at nearly \$70! A bargain at \$85, just a small markup over silver value, and less than our normal \$125 price regardless of silver price!

The Franklin Mint made thousands of different medals and ingots. One was a series of bank ingots, one from each state. Each ingot contained 1,000 grains of sterling silver, which converts to 1.94 ounces of pure silver. They made three different collections of bank ingots. We offer here two of the Alaska ingots.



Alaska National Bank of Fairbanks does not have its original display box and is a little scuffed. The Alaska State Bank (dated 1974) is very nice, with its original box. With nearly 2 ounces of silver, \$32 is just a small premium over their melt value.



Two sterling silver medals by Franklin Mint noting the purchase of Alaska. The first notes the flag raising site in Sitka (.86 oz. sterling). The second depicts the flag raising with important dates in Alaska history on the reverse (.78 oz. sterling). Two very attractive medals brought to market now because high silver prices! Each - \$15.



# SUMMER SPECIALS!



We always have a good stock of odd, Alaska one ounce silver. Now, we have even more (illustration size reduced).

In the 1st through 3rd row, we have multiples available. In the 4th row, we only have 2 of the BP, but plenty of the 25th anniversary.

The 5th row shows three and a common reverse. We only have one of the Alyeska Pipeline Club.

Finally, the 6th row shows Alaska Gold Panner medals from the Alaska mint. We only have one each of these.

These are priced at \$25 each, but order 5 or more, and we will sell them for \$20 each.

Below are two items of which we have a substantial quantity. The Oxford bar and Alaska Silver Coin are priced at \$18 each, or spot plus \$2.50, which ever is greater.

Silver is very volatile as we type this. A phone call or email will lock in your price until your payment arrives.





## MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS, CONT.



**ALASKA:** Arctic Warrior Brigade, Arctic Excellence. Units: 1-501ABN IN; 1-17 IN; 2-1 IN; 4-11 FA; 46 SB; E-3/17 CAV; C/41EN; F/110 MI; 21 SIG; HHCBDE. Bronze with two red stars at Ft. Wainwright and Fort Richardson. 40.5mm.



**ANCHORAGE:** Armed Services YMCA of Alaska, 27th annual salute. Bronze and multicolored enamel (Kurtis Hawk).



**(CLEAR A.F.S.):** 13th Space Warning Sq., Sentinel of Space, Presented by the Commander for Excellence. Blue and yellow enamel on oxidized silver metal (Kurtis Hawk).

**EIELSON A.F.B.:** Iceman Maintenance, Operations Group, Logistics Group. Red, white, blue, green and yellow enamel on oxidized silver metal (Kurtis Hawk). Illustrated at the top of the next column.



**(FT. WAINWRIGHT):** 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), America's Arctic Warriors. Brass plated base metal, 50mm. Above black, blue, red and white enamel. Below left black light blue and black. Below right black, red and white.

## FOR THE RECORD



**YAKUTAT:** Y. & S. RY. CO. (Yakutat & Southern Railway Co.), 10¢ in trade, 25mm. Listing on eBay lists this as copper. It is dark and could be copper, but we suspect that it is brass.